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EXAMINER

REILLY, SEAN M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2153

DATE MAILED: 06/19/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Another Examiner has been assigned to this application.

This Office action is in response to Applicant's amendment and request for reconsideration filed on March 13, 2006. Claims 1-36 and 38-46 are presented for further examination.

Response to Arguments

In response to Applicant's request for reconsideration filed on March 13, 2006, the following factual arguments are noted:

- a. Rose failed to teach storing a specific number of lines before and after a URL displayed in a chat conversation. Rose is not analogous art.
- b. The mIRC URL listbox is not a database.
- c. mIRC and IBM TBD failed to disclose *informing about the appearance of a keyword*.

In considering (a), Examiner respectfully disagrees with Applicant's argument.

Examiner does not assert that Rose specifically recited storing a specific number of lines before and after a URL displayed in a chat conversation. Rather Examiner maintains that Rose disclosed displaying to a user a summary comprising a certain number of lines in a document so that the user can quickly review if information is of interest (col.1 lines 35-42, col.2 lines 17-25). Furthermore Examiner maintains that given this teaching of Rose it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to save the URL together with certain number of statements before and after the URL and display the URL together with the statements because it would have provided

context information for enabling the user to quickly review whether the URL is of interest to the user. With regard to Applicant's assertion that Rose and mIRC are non-analogous references, Examiner disagrees. Both the teachings of Rose and mIRC are concerned with the processing of information in various on-line environments and are analogous for at least this reason.

In considering (b), Examiner respectfully disagrees with Applicant's argument. Applicant contends that the mIRC URL listbox is not a database. Examiner disagrees with this analysis. A list stored in a file is one of the simplest forms of a database and certainly meets the broadest reasonable definition of a database. Furthermore even if one were to consider that the mIRC URL listbox is not a database, Examiner maintains that it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to store the extracted URL and statements to a database because it would have enabled the user to query the database for URLs of interest at a later time.

In considering (c), Examiner respectfully disagrees with Applicant's argument. Applicant contends that both mIRC and IBM TBD failed to disclose *informing* about the appearance of a keyword. Applicant must consider the combined mIRC and IBM TBD systems as one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986). mIRC clearly disclosed when a URL is included in chat conversations displayed in the display screen, extracting and storing the URL and listing the extracted URL in a URL listbox (when the URL catcher is enabled - See the "URL Options" printout from mIRC v3.7 help file). The listing of

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these URLs in the URL listbox is understood to be *informing about the appearance of the URL*.

Furthermore in the **combined** mIRC and IBM TBD system the URL catcher functionality is extended to keywords. Accordingly keywords would also be included in a listbox upon their occurrence (analogous to the storage of URLs in a listbox) and thus the user would be informed about the appearance of the keyword in a chat conversation.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-2, 10-11, 21-22, 32-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over mIRC v3.7 and further in view of Rose et al. US patent 5,838,323.

As per claim 1, mIRC v3.7 implements a method for a chat system, the method comprising (see the mIRC help printout for "URL Options):

storing a URL displayed in conversation (URL catcher - "catch references to URLs and store them in the URL listbox");

displaying a list of said URLs according to an instruction (URL listbox);

selecting a URL from the list (On View ...).

mIRC v3.7 does not store statements positioned a specific number of lines before and after the URL and display the selected URL together with the statements. In similar field of information

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presentation, Rose teaches that users are facing with vast amount of digital information. Rose teaches to display to a user a summary comprising of certain number of lines in a document so that the user can quickly review if information is of interest (col.1 lines 35-42, col.2 lines 17-25). Given the teaching of Rose, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to save the URL together with certain number of statements before and after the URL and display the URL together with the statements because it would have provided context information for enabling the use to quickly review whether the URL is of interest to the user.

As per claim 2, mIRC v3.7 URL listbox constitute the database as claimed. Furthermore it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to stored the extracted URL and statements to a database because it would have enabled the user to query the database for URLs of interest at a later time.

As per claim 10-11, 21-22, they are computer program product equivalent to the method of claims 1-2. Hence, they are rejected under similar rationale as for claims 1-2 above.

As per claims 32 and 36, they are rejected under similar rationale as for claim 1 above.

As per claims 33, 34, and 35, they are rejected under similar rationale as for claims 1+2 above.

As per claim 44, it is a computer program product equivalent to the method of claim 1. Hence, claim 44 is rejected under similar rationale as for claim 1 above.

Claims 38-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over mIRC v3.7 and further in view of IBM TDB "Information Skimmer Utility" (v.36 no.08 August 1993).

As per claim 38, mIRC v3.7 is a chat program that is run on a terminal device with a display (a computer) for conversations in form of characters among terminal devices connected by a network (IRC network). The mIRC program is capable of instructing the processor of the terminal device to perform the operation of: when a URL is included in the conversations displayed in the display screen, extracting and storing the URL and listing the extracted URL (when URL catcher is enabled - See the "URL Options" printout from mIRC v3.7 help file).

mIRC v3.7 does not catch keyword in the conversation. However the IBM TDB discloses operation to improve the user ability to scan for information by emphasizing matched keywords defined by the user. (see page the IBM TDB page 117). Given the disclosure of the IBM TDB, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to also provide keyword capture because it would have enabled the user to quickly skim the chat session for interested conversations.

As per claims 39-40, the specific keyword defined would have been a matter of user choice. It would have been obvious for a user to define a user name as a keyword because it would have enabled him to easily spot conversation from or about that user.

As per claim 41, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art inform the appearance of a keyword by voice because it would have enabled the system to alert the user even when he is not currently viewing the display.

As per claim 42, mIRC v3.7 does not store statements positioned a specific number of lines before and after the URL or keyword. In similar field of information presentation, Rose teaches that users are facing with vast amount of digital information. Rose teaches to display to a user a summary comprising of certain number of lines in a document so that the user can quickly review if

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information is of interest (col.1 lines 35-42, col.2 lines 17-25). Given the teaching of Rose, tit would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to save the URL or keyword together with certain number of statements before and after the URL or keyword and display the URL or keyword together with the statements because it would have provided context information for enabling the use to quickly review whether the URL or keyword portion of the conversation is of interest to the user.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3-9, 12-20, 23-31, 43, 45 and 46 are allowable over the prior art.

Regarding claims 3-9, 12-20, 23-31, 45 and 46, the prior art do not teach nor reasonably suggest upon detection of a pre-specified keyword in chat conversation: 1) emphasizes the keyword in the chat conversation display and/or plays a sound, and 2) returns to the chat conversation display if it is not currently being displayed.

Regarding claim 43, the prior art do not teach nor reasonably suggest a chat display screen with plural regions for displaying conversations associated with a main channel and other chat channels; and a upon detection of a pre-specified name of a chat participant in a conversation, displaying the content of the conversation including the detected name in the region of the screen for the main channel.

Conclusion

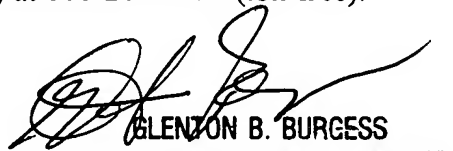
THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sean Reilly whose telephone number is 571-272-4228. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glen Burgess can be reached on 571-272-3949. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



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